

1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 46
Chapter 15: The Blessed Hope of the Believer
1 Corinthians 15:35-58

20 April 2018

The term “rapture” is not a word found in the Holy Bible. It is merely an easy term given to that blessed event described in 1Corinthians 15:52, **“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”** More details concerning the rapture are given in 1 Thessalonians chapter 4, where the Bible speaks of the Lord descending from heaven with a shout and catching the dead and living saints up together to meet Him in the clouds. This event could happen at any moment. Are you looking for Him with anticipation, or when He comes, will you have regrets for the way you have lived your life?

I. THE EVENT OF THE RAPTURE

- a. It cannot be dated. Paul said, **“We shall not all sleep”** (1 Cor. 15:51). He said, **“Then WE which are ALIVE and REMAIN”** (1 Thes. 4:17). He expected the Lord to come in his lifetime and catch him up to meet him in the air.
 - b. Christians should be looking for the Lord to come at any time. That is the hope that will give you comfort (1 Thes. 4:18). It will also challenge you to live right for the Lord (1 Jn. 2:28).
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II. THE SUBJECTS OF THE RAPTURE

- a. **The dead in Christ** (1 Cor. 15:52, 1 Thess. 4:13). They are pictured as being asleep.
 - i. Our sorrow should not be like the sorrow of those who have no hope. That is our past situation (Eph. 2:12, Rev. 14:13).
 - ii. Jesus will bring the dead saints with Him to claim their resurrected, glorified bodies (1 Thes. 4:14, Jude 14)
 - iii. They will be resurrected first (1 Thes. 4:16).
 - b. **The living saints in Christ** (1 Cor. 15:54, **“this mortal *must* put on immortality”**) (1 Thes. 4:17, **“we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them”**).
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III. THE PARTICULARS

- a. The Lord will call our individual names. This is the “trump” of God. It is his voice, not a trumpet (Rev. 4:1, 1:10, Jn. 12:28-29, Job 37:1-4).

- b. We are to be always looking for the Lord's return (Titus 2:13, Philippians 3:20).
 - c. We are to be seeking those things above, not things on the earth (Col. 3:1-4).
 - d. The crown of righteousness is only for those who love **His appearing** (2 Tim. 4:8). It is not for those who love to go to heaven, love to be free from sorrow, pains, & troubles, etc.
 - e. The emphasis is not on our leaving, but on the Lord Jesus Christ's coming.
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Note: The early Christians called their burial grounds "cemetery." This is a Greek word meaning dormitory or sleeping chamber.

PERSONAL NOTES
